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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Dec 8th 1901

My own darling Husband,

Your dear letter of Oct 27th now lies open before me awaiting an answer & now that my church going is over, my work finished I come with the very greatest pleasure to have my usual Sunday talk with my own dear boy whom I love so dearly & do long so to meet again. How fervently I pray that we will not be compelled by cruel fate to part once more for any length of time once we are reunited. I think we have been apart long enough – four long years out of one's life

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is something & cannot fail to count as part of the penance I shall have to undergo for my sins & I sincerely hope it is not all for naught. To speak of the money I have acknowledged it all. The last received was Sept. 27th £250. [6. 3.] You see Oct & Nov. have not come, but you say that the eight hundred (\$800) is to be sent to Percy [sic] Belcher as soon as it comes & I will do so of course. I have to pay \$221.60 cts. to Federal Life on the 21st of Dec, I try to be economical but money flies, for I get nothing for nothing as you know & pay at once for all.

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Before I go further I must speak of Dr. Ryerson's cheque. I attended to it on June 10th & the Bank of Montreal sent a draft for the amount of \$135.67 cts. to the "Standard Bank, Capetown" to your credit so you must attend to it from your end. I went in to see Mr. McPherson who gave me the receipt on receiving your last letter & he said it had been sent. I will carry out your wishes in regard to Uncle John as you wish, my dear.

Send what you like to Mrs. M. or Muriel – if you would like me to send them feathers, I shall do so, I am sure Muriel would like that – however let me know & then we shall see. I do not know what you can get there you see, so I cannot tell you what to send – do not wonder at repetitions as Auguste,

Marie & their boy are here as well as the other youngsters so you can imagine the row that goes on.

We would have looked up the Brierley's had you not been ill most of the time – not being able to go out at night & being quarantined for so long made a very great difference to us. I followed all Sir Redvers troubles & sent you clippings which I hope reached you.

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I wonder how it will all end, for certainly the people sympathize with Sir Redvers. The army knows all that he has done & it seems to me that people who have followed up the war cannot help feeling for him & hoping that he may be righted.

You still have an eye for beauty yourself my dear, & seem to admire Lady Maxwell very much. I do hope to have the pleasure of meeting her some day.

Did you see the restrictions placed on Hutton by the War office re his Australian appointment? I assure you they are severe & he can do very little of his own accord.

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I have not heard anything of the Biggar's since we left Ottawa. I must send her a card at Xmas – they reside in Ottawa now, I believe. You got the hair oil all right I trust, as I packed it as well as possible. Did you ever get your dress boots & box spurs sent you in Aug? You have never acknowledged them. I had new elastic put in the sides & had them fixed up before sending, so that they would be all right. Do not like a darling, forget to tell me if you received them.

The Sisters & Steel's of Dyne House

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are evidently very friendly – our Flora was ten years old yesterday – we had the three girls from Gertie's & the three Ruffensteins in – they sat down ten for supper & had a table covered with good things – the birthday cake was very pretty & very good – the Candles ten in number were in pretty white & pink flower holders alternately & were nice when lighted – she was delighted with her music holder also they had a gay, noisy time. we had the magic lantern as a wind-up to the entertainment. I will send the Steel's the children's picture for Xmas – they are found good & a pretty group.

Did the Steel's see B.P. when he was in Abergavenny? When does he intend returning to S. Africa? We see nothing of his health in the papers at present. We called on Mary Hebden on Thursday & in the course of

conversation I mentioned receiving the photos from Mrs. Steel - I said "the likeness was so strong between, Viv & William Arthur & Elmes that they never could deny the relationship" – she said, "I do not think they would do so" & I said "well any one could see the strong likeness

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at once". You say you cannot see how you can return – that is what I think myself & how I do pray that we will be able to go over in May – if the war would only end & the country quiet enough to enable us to join you, my darling.

I think B.P. will be satisfied with you & you with him – would you want us to go over if you stay a few years. You may prefer living like in your "bachelordom" days as Mrs. Gallagher used to say "when me & the Major was in the Force together". No more news from Mr. Bethune – surely he received the letters I enclosed in

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mine, but he has not answered mine yet either. Mrs. Zach is in Halifax at present & Mrs. Starnes' sister Mrs. Labelle (Col) told me the other day she never had had cancer & no sign of it – her heart is weak though, but the cancer was really & truly the boy who came all right & full grown in Aug. She kept up the cancer in order not to excite too much talk & get all the pity possible I suppose. You know she is one of those who is determined not to get that way if she can possibly keep out of it. I am not looking for a home

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my dear. You would not care to live in Montreal & I cannot go about for such a thing until I am sure you will return what our means are etc. The house you admired near the Miller's is taken by Mrs. [Famell], Dr. McLean's daughter who married an American last June. Now, my own dear love, your dear letter of Oct. 31st begins by scolding because I did not send my photo at the same time as those of the little ones. I sent one later on, but the fact of the matter is that I make a very poor photo – I look like a Japanese in my last – my eyebrows are all on the slant – don't you find so too? I will try again soon – I am always so busy I seem to find no time for such frivolities. If you scold me, your way of doing so is so sweet that I would not mind it every day – you recall the first evening that we met, when I determined not to let you think you were so nice & that if you could flirt, so could I.

Heavens, all the bliss & all the torture of those dear by-gone days, when I was wondering if it would be for our mutual

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happiness that we should link our lives together! no one can ever realize all that I went through – when I feared you might not know my reasons for hesitating I used to think I would die, if I had to give up all hopes of a happy life with the one I loved best in the wide world. From the very first it seems to me, the whole love of my life went out to you, my own darling Sam. I am not much to look at, but I love you very dearly & try hard to be all that I should to you, my pet. I will send you the “Star” that is will subscribe & have it sent direct to you – will see Mr. Taylor about it. Well, perhaps Dubbie does take

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after me in his [bump] of [accuativeness], being so largely developed. I am not ashamed of it but you too can lay some claim to the same quality. Flora is very like your father – I think he would be very proud of her as I know my own dear father would be, if he had only lived to see her now. You will not find Gertrude sad in the picture taken by Notman – she has a bright, piquant little face & her expression changes every moment. You have every reason to be proud of our three little ones, & they are clever as well as fine looking. I attended the meeting of the Soldiers’ Wives’ League on Friday – met Mrs. O’Grady Haly & Miss Jarvis of Ottawa, Col Jarvis’ sister.

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there were quite a number there & I conversed with many – also met Capt. Armstrong who returns in about a month – he is not much to look at & a brother of your old friend in Fort Steele – he said he would see you as he passed through Pretoria – his bride elect or may be he is married now, will not return with him – they say orders from ~~Pre~~ Johannesburg [sic] since Col. Benson’s death. They made me a member of the executive committee, but I really cannot do much in that way. They are all calling etc – really I begin to feel that society has taken me by the hand & that my

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days of being [bidet] like are over – seems strange they took so long to find me out! one thing certain is, that I have never sought them. Well, my darling, before you get too weary with my long letter I will say au-revoir. Heaven bless & protect you, my own dear one, until we meet again. The dear little ones send many sweet kisses to their own, dear old Papa. All desire to be kindly remembered – again, God bless you, is the earnest prayer of your most devoted loving, lonely, little wifie Maye.

Hon. Mr. Blair lost one of his young daughters, a girl of nineteen who made her debut at the reception of the Duke & Duchess in Sept. on Friday p.m. by drowning. A party of six skating near Rockcliffe Point – she & her partner, Mr. Creelman fell in – a Mr. Harper from Barrie who was editor of some paper & a graduate of Toronto University went to rescue them, but he & Miss Bessie B. were carried away – they say the bodies were found yesterday. Harper was twenty eight – you may know the family. Father & mother away when it happened. Some of the Govt. House people

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also broke through, but were rescued without any mishap. Again bye-bye my darling –

Should your cards have your y titles on them – I may have to have some printed & want you to be sure & let me know what you think is just the right thing – do not forget ~~fas~~ the very first mail after you receive this to answer my question –

Maye.

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